Interior Design

A Great Guide Book on Updating Your Home Decor

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Looking to update your home decor? We can show you how. We've got tips and tutorials to help you decorate every room in your home plus hundreds of photo galleries to inspire you.

Interior designers have shared a few secrets over the years that have given homeowners some insight on how they can make their home look elegant.

That being said, take the time to keep reading – you just might be surprised at these simple tricks to fooling your guests into thinking you live a high-end life.

Home Decor Trends From the 2000s to the 2020s

Home decor is always evolving, and it feels like every day there's a new trend. But the truth is, most trends are borrowed from previous decades and everything eventually comes back around again (well, almost everything). As we prepare for a new decade, we decided to take a look at just how far we've come since the turn of the 21st century.

From mason jars to boho-chic, let's go back in time and remember some of the biggest trends of the previous twenty years, and then look ahead to what we can expect with the start of a new decade.

Trends From the 2000s

These decor trends share a decade with Britney Spears' best years, the release of the first iPod, and the once-coveted Blu-ray disc. Though it doesn't seem that long ago, some of these decor trends from the 2000s feel like they came from centuries past. We can thank the 2000s for our obsession with white kitchens and all of those mason jars collecting dust in the basement.

Bedrooms: Shabby chic

Before the age of Joanna Gaines and the phrase "modern farmhouse," there was shabby chic. Known for its rustic, slightly distressed look, shabby chic is a little bit country, a little

bit vintage, and really defines the 2000s. From ruffled lace bedding to distressed white-washed nightstands, we were all about the shabby chic look in our bedrooms.

Living Room: Entertainment "stations"

Back when Blu-ray discs and DVD players were still huge, we all splurged on an oversized entertainment center to house all of our cool new tech items. From oversized speakers to deliver the best surround sound to that new flat-screen TV, we needed that bulky, heavy entertainment station to show off our prized home theater. Who will ever forget Joey and Chandler's epic entertainment center that took up most of the room?

Kitchens: White kitchen cabinets

While we're those oversized entertainment stations may have been a thing of the past, white kitchens are still holding strong years later. We can thank the 2000s for the shift away from deep, dark wooden cabinets, and we're still very much feeling the look today. Arguably the most popular kitchen cabinet color right now, white became the dominant tone for not only

cabinets, but backsplashes, countertops, and even flooring.

Bathrooms: Tuscan style

While some trends of the 2000s were understated and subtle, the Tuscan-style bathroom was not one of them. As homeowners began to upgrade in size, we saw larger bathrooms with ornate features and colors such as ochre and terracotta paired with heavy, dark wood.

Dining Rooms: Mismatched dining chairs

There are a lot of dining room trends we saw in the 2000s, but one of our favorites is the shift from formal, classic dining rooms to more whimsical, fun spaces. Big box stores began selling chairs as single items, allowing us to mix and match colors and styles to create a happy, welcoming vibe in our dining rooms.

Kids' Rooms: Bird-themed kids' rooms

Though the Portlandia catchphrase "Put a Bird on It" became a full-fledged meme in the early 2010s, the bird trend was

already big by the late 2000s. From bird-covered bedding to lamps shaped like birds to feather-inspired wall art, the avian theme was huge in the 2000s.

Paint Trends: Dark red and brown paint

Though we saw a lot of use of neutrals and whites in the 2000s, especially in the kitchen, we also saw a rise in deep, dark reds and browns throughout the home. Pantone even named "True Red" their color of the year in 2002.

Architecture: McMansions

Before the housing market crash in 2008, McMansions were a signal of affluence and class. Though these oversized new builds popped up in the 1990s, they also defined architecture into the 2000s. These homes included large-scale rooms, nonessential architectural features like columns, and two- to three-car garages.

Accessories: Mason jars everywhere

It's hard to deny the versatility of the Mason jar. It's a wine

glass, a vase, a candle holder, and so much more, all in a compact, hard-to-break little glass container. If you're like us, you probably had hundreds of Mason jars scattered around the house working overtime.

2010s Decor Styles

Between the rise of the iPhone and increased awareness of climate change, this decade was all about streamlined minimalism, and decor is no exception. We took a step back during these years, and what was once ornate and grand became understated and simple.

Bedrooms: Barn doors as closet doors

Closet doors are so 2000s. Many homeowners decided to ditch the bifold door and embrace a sliding barn-style door instead. Not only did this save on precious bedroom real estate, but it also offered a more streamlined and modern look.

Living Room: Poufs galore

Who needs an ottoman when you have poufs? From the patio to the indoor living room, we were all about the pouf. A pouf not only gives you a place to prop up your feet after a long day at work, but also doubles as seating in a pinch.

Kitchens: Open shelving

In this decade we began to see more homeowners ditch the traditional cabinets and turn to open kitchen shelving instead. Though this look required more dedication to organization and cleanliness, it also helps a small kitchen feel open and airy.

Bathrooms: Geometric tiles

Sure, subway tiles will probably never go entirely out of style, but many homeowners began to experiment with hexagonal

and diamond-shaped tiles to give bathrooms more visual interest and create a unique, personalized space.

Dining Rooms: Modern farmhouse

We can thank Joanna Gaines for our love of the modern farmhouse in the 2010s. A shift from shabby chic, this look combined farmhouse style with modern simplicity. From reclaimed wood tables to Windsor dining chairs, our 2010 dining room is all about the modern farmhouse.

Kids' Rooms: Canopies are back

What goes around comes around in home decor. If you had a canopy in the 1990s, there's a good chance a child you know embraced the same look in the 2010s. This decade we saw more kids' rooms with flowy, fort-like canopies to give children privacy, especially in shared bedrooms.

Paint Trends: Millennial pink and hunter green

Pink and green are two very different colors, but both were equally hot in the 2010s. On one hand, we swapped crisp

whites for barely-there pinks and subtle roses. On the other, we went full-on moody with deep hunter greens in the kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom.

Architecture: Open floor plans

More and more homeowners began to truly embrace the open floor plan concept in the 2010s. Whether in a mid-century ranch or a 1920s craftsman, the open floor plan was (and still is) a coveted architectural feature.

Accessories: Brass and gold hardware

From the bathroom to the kitchen to the front door, we swapped out our silver hardware for gold and brass finishes this decade. A mix of both modern and vintage, this look is still very much going strong.

Look Ahead to 2020 and Beyond

The trends that will make a splash in the next decade may surprise us, but there are a few early indications that show us where home decor is headed. Here are some of our predictions for home decor trends in the next ten years.

Bedrooms: Smart furniture

We've already started to embrace smart furniture in the kitchen and living room, but it's time to open the bedroom up to more tech. From nightstands with built-in USB ports and automatic lighting to beds that can track your sleep, expect to see more smart pieces in the bedroom this year.

Living Room: Boho and eclectic

We've already started to shift away from minimalism and embrace maximalism, and we don't see this trend slowing down. The next decade will be full of bright colors, textures, and boho-inspired home decor.

Kitchens: Bright, colorful kitchens

While we don't think white kitchens will totally fade away, expect to see more homeowners experiment with bright, bold kitchen cabinets and appliances. From daring reds to soft pinks, it's time to embrace color in the kitchen.

Bathrooms: Cement sinks and natural materials

Tariffs on certain materials have made many homeowners turn to cheaper products for bathroom design, such as cement. Natural stones like limestone are also getting noticed for being eco-friendly, and mark a shift from the traditional subway tile.

Dining Rooms: Formal dining rooms

While open floor plans are still big, we are expecting more

people to embrace segmented rooms again. Whether it's a true closed-off dining room or simply a space that feels separate and intentional from the rest of the home, we foresee homeowners spending more time in the dining room and embracing dinner time once again.

Kids' Rooms: Textures and patterns

From faux fur to camouflage to cheetah print, kids' rooms are going to become more daring than ever before. As the rest of the house continues to embrace neutrals, the kids' room is where homeowners will experiment with vibrant, exciting aesthetics.

Paint Trends: Beige is back, dark is the new neutral

If you thought beige paint was too '90s, think again. This versatile hue is back and more home decorators are swapping white for beige yet again. We also don't see moody, dark colors going away anytime soon—in fact, we expect they will replace the neutral in nearly any room of the house.

Architecture: Eco-friendly

A sense of urgency around climate change has made architects and designers focus on creating eco-conscious and sustainable homes. From solar panels to low-energy lighting to cellulose insulation, expect to see even more earth-friendly builds.

Accessories: Global and rattan

More proof that trends always resurface, rattan was big in the '70s and is truly having a comeback. From rattan bookcases to wicker chairs, expect to see even more of this time-tested material.

Interior Design and Decor Trends to Expect in 2020

Bar Cabinets

A bar cabinet gives you even more storage space and you can use nearly any cabinet to create your own version.

Though more difficult to move from room to room, a bar cabinet feels more deliberate and creates a gathering space in a dining room or a corner of the living room to serve drinks and mingle with friends and family.

Cement Vanities

Next year we'll find more unexpected materials used throughout the home, especially in the bathroom. From cement sinks, like this one from dalydigs, to full-blown cement vanities in the bathroom, cement is becoming a more and more popular material to use in the home. It's a great material to create a modern but rustic vibe in your space, and a lovely diversion from a standard wood or marble vanity.

Upgraded Kids' Rooms

A kids' bedroom is a great place to get creative and channel your inner child in your home decor. While we still love a great hygge-friendly kids' room, this year we think its time to play with bolder colors and wilder textures (think animal print, camouflage, and faux fur) in the nursery.

Engage your children as you pick out furniture and set a theme for the space and you'll create a perfect escape that fosters your child's imagination.

Baskets as Decor

Nothing beats a great basket when it comes to storage throws, dog toys, or really basically anything, but we expect to see more woven pieces as artwork in the coming year. As seen in this lovely living space from styledbydi, baskets can make a great alternative to the typical gallery wall.

Check flea markets or vintage shops to find shallow baskets that create a lovely, worldly vibe when hung on the wall. Look for colorful patterns and handwoven pieces that can double as artwork. Bonus points: When you get tired of the look on your walls, you can reuse them as storage around the house.

Navy Is the New Gray

This is a trend that has been slowly creeping up on us, but it's finally arrived with a bang. Navy itself isn't new, but according to Mary Maydan, principal and founder of Maydan Architects, it's starting to replace neutrals like gray and beige in residential spaces.

We expect to see bolder, darker colors used in place of neutrals in the home in 2020. Colors such as navy or hunter green can

offer a sense of calm and tranquility, while still feeling traditional enough to use in dining rooms or living areas.

The Comeback of the Formal Dining Room

Open floor plans have been big for years now, but expect to see more and more homeowners embrace the formal dining room this year. A formal dining room doesn't have to be completely closed off from the rest of the house, but it should feel purposeful and delineated, like this one from ourtxnest.

A true formal dining space gives you a space to entertain that feels removed from the other areas in the home and helps encourage family mealtime.

Colorful Kitchens

White kitchens replaced the natural wood look in the '90s, but over the past year, we've seen more home designers experiment with color in their kitchens.

Whether you decide to use bright, bold paint on your cabinets or you opt for retro-inspired appliances that offer a burst of color, straying from neutrals can add an energetic and welcoming feel to nearly any kitchen space.

Secondhand and Sustainable

With more and more focus on climate change and sustainability, expect to see more secondhand items used throughout homes, according to Helena Brana of BRANA designs. Designers are starting to take an active part in reducing waste, and home decor is shifting to reusable and sustainable materials.

Shopping secondhand is not only eco-conscious, but it can allow you to customize and personalize your home to a far greater degree than most big box shops. Look for well-made

pieces in good condition or items with great bones that can be restored to their original beauty.

All Shades of Blue

Navy isn't the only blue hue getting a moment in the spotlight next year. From muted aqua shades to soft pastel blues, expect to see a lot of these tranquil tones next year. Blue has always been a go-to paint color, but try using it in textiles, wallpaper, or even large furniture pieces (who doesn't love a navy velvet couch?) for a splash of color that's peaceful in nearly any shade.

Bringing the Outdoors In

Not only are these materials more sustainable than manmade options, but they also help lend a sense of calm to your home.

A running theme we've seen across numerous designers' predictions is that many of them are aimed at transforming the home into a tranquil escape from the busy world. This year, spend some time making your home a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle.

Natural Stone

Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling also thinks we'll see a shift from manmade to natural materials throughout the home. From countertops to vanities to bathroom tile work, more homeowners are choosing natural materials like limestone, onyx, and sandstone to create not only a more environmentally conscious space, but a more unique look as well.

Peaceful and Tranquil Paint Colors

While 2019's Color of the Year was Living Coral, expect to see even more soft muted colors in 2020. From soft pink hues to pastel green shades, many paint designers picked neutral-inspired tones as their 2020 paint colors. While bolder choices like navy and hunter green are still on the rise, muted colors are quickly creeping in throughout the home.

Plus, a pastel or muted paint color can be a great way to replace standard white or gray tones without going over the top with color.

The Best DIY Home Hacks

DIY home hacks are incredibly rewarding. Not only do they solve real design problems like clutter and disorganization, but they tend to be budget-friendly solutions to such predicaments. Who doesn't love a DIY shortcut that saves you money and makes your home more beautiful simultaneously? The following tips to tricking out your living space without breaking the bank will make you smile, and help you transform your house from "meh" to "wow."

1. Leveling Up

I like the idea of 'leveling up' when DIYing. What I mean is taking something and making it better as opposed to making something out of thin air. I love doing things like painting an old thrifted piece of furniture and adding new hardware or putting a fun trim on a simple, cheap curtain panel. It's super easy but has a big impact.

2. Eucalyptus

We love getting a bundle of eucalyptus at our weekend farmer's market and hanging it from our shower head. The scent is incredible and elevates our shower both aesthetically and experientially.

3. Adhesive Shelves

Command ledges in the bathroom! I don't have a medicine cabinet and they've saved my life.

4. Repurposing Rooms

ust because your dining room is technically called your dining room it doesn't mean that you can't swap it with your family room furniture and turn it into a hangout space. We recently moved into our new place and we played a little bit of musical chairs with our furniture until we found the right spots for everything. What once was an entry area became our living room lounge area and what was once used as a living room became a big open dining area. Don't be afraid to move things around and use your home in the best way possible for you.

5. Clothespins

We have the simplest but most effective coat closet hack! Hang one or two lengths of cotton cord across the inside of your coat closet door and line it with clothespins. Use the clothespins to pin up all your winter hats and gloves. You'll never have another glove go missing!

6. Ikea Hacks

While I'm not one to do a lot of DIYs, I'm a huge fan of the IKEA hacks that are now on the market. Sites like Semihandmade let you customize Ikea pieces in ways that look custom.

7. Dimmers

The first thing I did as soon as I moved into my apartment was add dimmers to all of the light switches. I can't tell you what a *huge* difference it makes in the way a room feels. Not to mention, it only costs a few bucks and it really isn't difficult to do it yourself.

8. DIY Artwork

Make your own wall art! If you don't have the budget just yet for art, that doesn't mean you have to go without. You can make beautiful pieces with just a few simple tools. A matted frame will elevate your work and you can grab them at Ikea for under $10.

9. Paper Plants

Making paper plants that look real or even sculptural. They always look fresh and green!

10. Beeswax

I love using beeswax in our home, so I'll often end up buying a whole bunch of it in bulk and turning it into DIY candles. We burn them all around the house because of the natural cleaning power of beeswax.

11. Smart Sheet Storage

My favorite home hack would be placing your sheet sets into their matching pillowcases. The linen

closet tends to be one of the most overlooked spaces in your home. This is a simple yet efficient solution.

12. Spray Paint

We've restored old hair pin leg planters, revived picture frames and made plastic Ikea shelf brackets look like expensive metal beauties all with the help of spray paint. Never underestimate the power of a little paint!

13. Custom Shelves

One of the easiest and most useful DIYs you can do is shelving. Buying shelves can be expensive, and sometimes you have a specific need or dimensions and you can't find what you are looking for. So if you do-it-yourself, then you can get exactly what you need for a lot less money.

14. Bespoke Hardware

I am a little crazy for IKEA. My favorite hack is to hang the Besta wall units side by side along a wall and use unique or bespoke hardware to make it feel more lux. I also have been

known to order store bought curtains and unpick the hems and straighten them with a hair straightener to get them to fit a space without having to go custom hahaha.

15. Paint Storage

We use paint in just about every home project which also means we have a lot of paint cans. At least we used to. My favorite hack is pouring the extra paint from a project in a small jar for quick and easy access for any future touch ups. This also frees up a lot of space since we aren't storing the large paint cans anymore.

16. Open Shelving

You can build and hang open shelving very easily and inexpensively. We cut and stained our own wood shelves and hung them on the wall with spray painted brackets from a hardware store. We did four shelves in our kitchen for about $60, and always get a lot of compliments on them.

Choosing Interior Paint Colors

Choosing Interior Paint Colors Is Easier Than You Think

The easiest way to choose the best interior paint colors is to start with the colors you love. When you start with the colors you love, you are not bound by the traditional color schemes for a particular decorating style. Using your favorite color as your base color, you can use it to create a color scheme around it. Your favorite colors can be the perfect inspiration for your new color palette for the whole room.

Find Paint Color Inspiration

Magazines and catalogs have always been the staple of decorating inspiration. You have access to thousands of pages of inspiration on the internet. Retailer sites can be inspiring with their room vignettes, and paint company sites can also show you ways to use color in your home. Social media sites such as Pinterest and Instagram offer color inspiration that is refreshed in real-time. Pinterest is great for creating inspiration boards for your favorite ideas, so you can keep all your ideas in one spot.

Use Color Theory to Create a Color Scheme

You don't have to study color theory to get great ideas from a little color wheel. These inexpensive color tools can generate color scheme ideas quickly. With a turn of the wheel, you can see how colors might relate to each other and learn the basics of color theory. While you probably won't be painting your home in the exact colors you see on the wheel, you can choose shades of those colors at your favorite paint store.

Get Creative With Neutral Paint Colors

Just because you choose neutral paint colors doesn't mean they have to be laid-back. You can rev up your neutral color palette by being creative with how the colors are used. A striped wall in neutral colors adds tons of style but still keeps the room looking relaxed. Neutral wall color with a pastel ceiling is a sneaky way to add color without losing the soothing vibe of the space.

Pull Your Paint Color From a Print

One of the easiest ways to choose interior paint colors is to start with a print fabric. Throw pillows, bedding, and even table linens can provide you with paint color ideas. If you're creating an accent wall, look to the boldest colors in the print. If you would like to choose a paint color that is more subtle or for a larger space, look at the color in the small details of your print fabric. Take a fabric swatch to the paint store so you can choose paint strips to view at home.

Look Outside for Ideas

Bringing the outside in is a popular inspiration for color

schemes. Whether you choose foliage green or the laid-back blues of the beach, exterior-inspired color schemes are meant to be restful and relaxing. Be sure to sample your favorite paint colors at all times of the day and night and with the window treatments closed and open to get the most realistic view of your possible choices.

Find Your Paint Color in Artwork

An interior designer's secret is choosing colors from artwork in your home. Most artists are masters of color and light, creating their color schemes for their pieces. You can benefit from their insight by choosing colors from a favorite piece of art. You can also choose complementary colors from the same work of art to create a color scheme.

Look to Historical Color Inspiration

Just because you love Craftsman color schemes doesn't mean you have to decorate in a Craftsman style. Historical paint colors are offered by many of the paint industry leaders. Use these collections as inspiration and tailor them to your

decorating style.

How to Use Undertones to Find Your Perfect Paint Colors

You can be unpleasantly surprised by the undertones when choosing interior paint colors. Simply explained, undertones are the colors lurking beneath your favorite paint color. A simple beige may not be all that simple if it has a strong green undertone. The only way to accurately read how an undertone will appear in your home is to sample the color. Undertones from other surfaces in your room can also change the way your paint appears due to reflection, so sampling is essential.

Do Your Homework Before Shopping

Choosing the right interior paint color starts at home. Before you head to the paint store to gather paper samples, gather inspiration from catalogs and magazines, and fabric swatches. This will keep you from grabbing too many paint color options on your first trip to the store. The hardest part of choosing a paint color, at first, is having too many options.

Once you narrow down your paint color choices, return to the

store for paint color samples to try at home. This step is crucial to finding the perfect color.

Sample Your Paint Colors Before Committing

This is a simple rule that should never be ignored. Always sample any paint color you're considering. When you are committing gallons of paint and hours to your project, you have to get the color right the first time. You don't want to skip this step. If you look at the back of the paint store, there are stacks of cans of returned paint from people that did not take the time to sample first. Don't be one of them. Make sure to calculate exactly how much paint you'll need, as well, so that you minimize waste.

Remember, sampling paint colors is the most important step in finding the right colors for your home.

How to Flow Color Throughout Your Home

If you're decorating a small home, flowing paint color

throughout the rooms can give the illusion of a larger space. Flowing paint color through your home can also create a relaxing vibe. The most stunning way to use flowing color is to choose a neutral paint color that will be your signature hue for your home. Each room can have its accent colors, or you can use the same accent colors in different amounts in each room. Keep flooring similar from room to room, and consider molding to tie everything together.

Use a Color Consultant

If you would like a new color scheme and aren't sure which interior paint colors to choose, a color consultant can point you in the right direction. A color consultant can provide you with paint color ideas to sample or even a custom-designed color palette for your home.

Before you meet with your color consultant, gather ideas and inspiration to share with them so that they can see what you have in mind. Ask if your consultant can visit at a particular time so that he or she can see the challenges that the natural

lighting poses for your space. Don't be surprised if your color consultant suggests changes to your lighting to correct color problems in the room.

Paint Color Apps Can Make Choosing Paint Color Easier

Choosing a paint color can be easier with the use of a phone or tablet app. Paint color apps have been evolving and improving since they were first released, so you might want to check them out again if you've tried one in the past and it didn't work for you.

The most popular paint color apps give you the ability to match a color you see anywhere, as long as the phone or tablet camera can read it. Though it may not be an exact match, these apps can suggest similar colors. The best apps can also offer color palettes created around your color, and ways to share your palettes with friends on social media. Look for extra tools like paint buying tips, and basic DIY videos.

The Bright Wallpaper Ideas

Bright Wallpaper Works With Colorful or Neutral Furniture

The meadow of watercolor wildflowers that seems to bloom from the floor of this living room is a perfect foil for a cheerful yellow sofa and a jumble of colorful throw pillows. But you don't need to use colorful furniture in a room with brightly colored wallpaper, as shown in the neutral-toned living space above, featuring striking blue AURA Super Nova wallpaper, made from a scan of an abstract acrylic painting from Swedish artist Emma Lindström.

Banana Leaves Create a Tropical Backdrop

Joanne Gray of New Zealand design studio Back to the Wall says that bright wallpaper gives spaces "an artistic pop" and provides a "dramatic focal point." To style a room around this exuberant banana leaf wallpaper, she says, choose leather and velvet furniture for a glamorous effect or rattan, crisp linens, and hints of blush for a breezy Bahamas look. "Styling such a bold wallpaper choice should be fun," Gray says. "Pull from it colors you want to highlight with cushions and throws and don't be afraid to combine different patterns. Try mixing with some bold black and white lattice cushions to pull everything together."

Wallpaper That Tells a Story

This charming blue wallpaper designed by interior architect Jennifer Jorgensen and illustrator Kate Worum of She She features dandelions, wild parrots, and bumblebees. The designers advise that you can style a room with bold wallpaper by calming the space down with neutrals or layering in even more color, pattern and texture. "For our hand-painted wallpaper 'Paco Y Maria' we decided to do a little of both!" the

designers say. "We played up the boldness by carrying the pattern throughout the room. The pattern is painted on the wall, headboard, beaded on the pillows, and painted on the lampshade! We chose a white duvet cover, lamp base, and pillow to create a balance. She She usually likes to style around the idea that 'More is more!'"

Create a Quirky Feature Wall Behind the Bed

Using wallpaper to create a feature wall behind the bed allows you to embrace bright color and quirky patterns, creating a bedroom you will love walking into while keeping all the visual noise behind you as you are waking up and falling asleep. This whimsical wallpaper decorated with wild cats and tropical leaves from Murals Wallpaper was inspired by the playful, retro design aesthetic of director Wes Anderson's iconic movies. A pastel pink wall picks up on the red wallpaper's accent color and linens in a softer shade of pinkish-red pull it all together.

Wake Up a Breakfast Nook With a Geometric Look

Inspired by the geometry of a quilt, this vivid accent wallpaper sets a cheery tone in a high-energy breakfast nook. A Muuto E27 pendant lamp in bright yellow picks up on one of the pattern's myriad colors. Crisp white walls and furniture keep it fresh while a round table and gently curved Scandi-style chairs subtly echo the wallpaper pattern.

Boost Your Home Office With a Rainbow-Hued World Map

This uplifting watercolor rainbow world map wallpaper is the perfect escapist antidote to feeling stuck at your home office

desk. The softly blurred edges of the design encourage globe-trotting daydreams in between emails. White walls and flooring create a sleek blank canvas effect for the wallpaper, and a classic wood desk and rounded white lamp with mid-century vibes completes the bold look with minimal effort.

Create a Happy Kids Room With Polka Dots

Wallpaper with candy-colored polka dots surrounded by plenty of white space creates an upbeat feeling that doesn't overwhelm. The dot theme is echoed but not overdone thanks to a round rug, a pom pom garland light and a fabric teepee cover in neutral colors. The shape of the house-inspired bed frame and teepee balance the design with complementary straight lines.

Add a Bold Stripe of Wallpaper in an Unexpected Corner

Neutral furnishings and flooring and pastel pink walls are punched up with a splash of graphic pink-and-purple striped wallpaper on an unexpected side wall that takes this from a kids room to a teenager's space without a major investment.

Experiment With Small, Unexpected Spaces

Decorating with bright wallpaper instantly boosts the mood of any room, but it's not for the faint of heart. If you're commitment shy, test the waters with removable wallpaper. Or experiment in out-of-the-way corners or light-compromised, smaller areas—in the bathroom, foyer, mud room, laundry room, on the inside of a closet or the risers of a staircase. Or you can just decide that life is short and make a bold style move.

Clever Hallway Decor Ideas

How to Amp Up the Style in Your Corridor

Just because the hall isn't a "room" in the traditional sense, doesn't mean it should be neglected. Your corridor is the first thing guests see when they arrive, so it sets the tone for the rest of your home. You want to create a space that speaks to your design sensibility, while being functional and welcoming. Sounds like a tall order, but with a little ingenuity, you can create a pretty pathway with plenty of personality.

Hang Wooden Hooks

Function meets form *and* fashion in this entry by Over The Ocean. Tuck coats in the closet and hang items like totes and

hats on circular wooden hooks.

Get Organized

Utilize every square inch. Just because you lack a front hall closet or don't have space for a credenza, doesn't mean you have to toss your stuff on the first surface you see. Take a cue from Details Blog and "pack as much functionality as possible" with wall-mounted organization. A whimsical sign or favorite piece of artwork will charm anyone who happens by.

Create a Gallery Wall

Some may see a blank corridor, but we see a gallery just waiting to happen. Hanging family portraits, photos, and artwork is a simple solution to give your pathway a personal touch. Choosing coordinating frames in a single color, like we see in this long hallway from Style at Home, creates a cohesive look.

Take It In a Modern Direction

Fan of modern aesthetics? Complementary neutral hues, sleek

flooring, geometric patterns, and curated accent pieces produce a cool, contemporary flow. Need a spot to stash stuff? Swap in a storage bench.

Expand Space With Mirrors

A round mirror and narrow console are an apartment dweller's best friend. But don't take our word for it. The welcoming entryway of this bachelor pad, designed by Nicole Watts, is undeniable proof.

Be Concise with Accoutrements

Say "bonjour" to this Parisian-inspired hallway. White walls and light wood floors are a clean slate. Infuse French charm with a checkered runner, bloom-filled vase, and framed art.

Liven Things Up With Botanical Wall Coverings

Awkward layouts often fall into disarray as homeowners struggle to properly appoint them. Challenge accepted! Dress up a drab hall with a bold botanical wall covering. Think: Verdant vines, palm trees, banana leaves, and flirty florals.

Lay Down an Area Rug

Long, narrow corridor? Lay down an area rug, or, more accurately, a runner to define it and add warmth. Give your space a splash of earthy paint, then layer in artwork and pendant lights. Finally, take it to the next level with a few plants.

Decorating Mistakes to Avoid

Even with books and magazines, TV shows, online articles, and decorating showhouses offering advice and inspiration, it can still be hard to avoid decorating mistakes. That's because it's easy to get excited and leap into purchases before carefully considering what you really want, need, and can afford. You can avoid buyer's remorse and overspending, though, by avoiding these common mistakes.

Don't Let Someone Make Choices for You

Your home is your personal space. Don't let someone else tell you what you should do. If you need help, ask for suggestions and, of course, consider the preferences of your family or

housemates. But when the time comes to make decisions, they should be yours. It's your home, and you should feel comfortable with the choices.

Don't Paint First

You can buy paint in every color under the sun. In fact, you can have paint mixed in any imaginable color you might want. Choose fabric, carpet, wallpaper, and upholstery first, then take a sample to the paint store with you. That way, you can sure your colors match perfectly.

Don't Choose Paint From a Paint Chip

A small chip of a paint sample might look great in the fluorescent light in the paint store, but a whole wall of it might be overpowering. When you've decided on a color, purchase a quart of the color and paint a small section to see how the color looks in the room with natural light. If you don't want to mess up the walls, paint a piece of cardboard and tape it on the walls in the room where you plan to use the color. Another option is to buy a quart of several of your favorite colors and then

compare the possibilities.

Don't Decide on Colors in a Store

Never buy fabric, flooring, or paint on your first visit. Ask for samples of paint and carpet and swatches of fabric so you can see what they look like in your home. Check them out in natural light and in the evening with lamps. Remember that colors do look completely different in different light; incandescent bulbs, for example, have a yellowish glow while halogens may look bluish. Similarly, a wall will look very different in bright sunshine than in shadow.

Don't Settle for Blah If You Love Bold

A gallon of red paint doesn't cost any more than a gallon of white. If you love the color, find a way to use your favorite colors in your home. Choose colors that express your personality and coordinate with things you love—while bearing in mind that you will have to live with your choices day in and day out for quite a while.

Don't Make Your Favorite Color the Main Color

Bright colors can be fun, but too much of a good thing can be overwhelming. Instead of painting entire walls in bright, saturated colors, choose a more subtle shade to provide a background that will let items in your favorite color really "pop."

Don't Ignore the Psychology of Color

Don't expect to create a relaxing sanctuary in a room with red walls. Blue and green are more calming and relaxing. Choose red and orange for playrooms or family rooms where the action is. Select a color scheme to create the atmosphere you want in the room.

Don't Forget Color Undertones

Not all blue is blue. Not all whites are identical. Look beyond the main color to see if the hue is light or dark, crisp or dull. Subtle differences can make all the difference when you're intending to set a mood.

Choose coordinating colors with the same intensity. This is easy to do in many cases because paint manufacturers provide

color swatch cards with varying shades of the same hue—so you can select a family of colors that will work well together.

Don't Force a Color Scheme

Many home decorators assume that their colors must match to work well together. But there are many ways to use a variety of colors to create a coordinated look. Choose your color family, identify the major pieces that will have a place in the room, and then recover, repaint, and coordinate all the elements. Find another place for or get rid of anything that doesn't fit your plan.

Don't Ignore the Focal Point of Your Room

Focal points are elements that draw the attention and focus of anyone who walks into a room. Common focal points include windows, fireplaces, and French doors. Not every room has a focal point, but if yours does, make it important. Arrange the artwork and furniture around this important element.

Don't Let Your Furniture Hug the Walls

It's easy to make the mistake of placing every piece of furniture up against a wall—but that can make it difficult to use the furniture comfortably. Don't arrange the chairs, sofa, and tables all around the perimeter of the room unless the size or layout of the room make no other choice possible. Make groupings of furniture for conversations and pull pieces into the center of the room for a warmer feeling of comfort. It can be fun to experiment with different configurations of furnishings, and it's easy to make changes if you don't like the results.

Don't Build Barriers

Homes are intended for relaxing and entertaining, and that can be tough to do when you're constantly bumping into pieces of furniture. To make your home more accessible and welcoming avoiding putting chairs or tables in front of doorways or archways. Leave room for easy access and movement into and within the room.